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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
providing operating system drivers during an operating system installation on a computer system by:
storing the operating system drivers on a read only memory (ROM) within the computer system;
copying at least one of the operating system drivers from a virtual disk drive of the computer system during the operating system installation by:
invoking basic input output system (BIOS) routines;
identifying the operating system drivers residing on the ROM as files stored on the virtual disk drive by the BIOS routines; and
having only operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed available for copying from the virtual disk drive by identifying only the operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed as files stored on the virtual disk drive by the BIOS routines.

3. (Previously presented) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 2 further comprising:

requesting disk services to the virtual disk drive by:

invoking interrupt 13h BIOS routines directed to the virtual disk drive; and

returning a file name for at least one of the operating system drivers by the interrupt 13h BIOS routines as if the operating system drivers resided on the virtual disk drive.

4.-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

providing operating system drivers during an operating system installation on a computer system by:

storing the operating system drivers on a read only memory (ROM) within the computer system by:

storing on the ROM a first set of operating system drivers operable with a first operating system; and

storing on the ROM a second set of operating system drivers operable with a second operating system;

copying at least one of the operating system drivers from a virtual disk drive of the computer system during the operating system installation; and

having only operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed available for copying from the virtual disk drive by identifying only the operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed as files stored on the virtual disk drive by the BIOS routines.

8. (Previously presented) The method of providing operating system drivers as defined in claim 7 wherein identifying the operating system drivers as files stored on the virtual disk drive further comprises:

requesting disk services to a disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system by:

invoking interrupt 13h BIOS routines directed to the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system;

returning a file name for operable operating system drivers by the interrupt 13h BIOS services as if the operating system drivers resided on the disk drive name that does not physically reside in the computer system.

9.-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously presented) A read only memory (ROM) device comprising:

a basic input output system (BIOS) program;

a set of hardware drivers; and

wherein the BIOS program, when executed by a microprocessor, makes the set of hardware drivers available for copying during installation of an operating system by identifying the hardware drivers on the ROM as files on a virtual disk drive;

wherein the hardware drivers are made available for copying from the virtual disk drive by identifying only the hardware drivers operable with the operating system to be installed.

18. (Previously presented) The ROM device as defined in claim 17 wherein the set of hardware drivers further comprises:

a first set of hardware drivers for use with a first type operating system;

a second set of hardware drivers for use with a second type operating system; and

wherein the BIOS program makes only the first set of hardware drivers available during installation of the first type operating system, and wherein the BIOS program makes only the second set of hardware drivers available during installation of the second type operating system.

19.-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a CPU;
a main memory array coupled to the CPU;
an expansion bus coupled to the CPU; and
a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the expansion bus, wherein the ROM stores basic input output system (BIOS) programs;
wherein the BIOS programs of the ROM ~~show~~ implement a virtual floppy drive whose contents reside in the random access memory (RAM) area of the virtual address space and whose contents ~~include hardware~~ comprise operating system drivers available for copying during installation of an operating system;
wherein the BIOS programs show the operating system drivers on the RAM as the contents of the virtual floppy drive
wherein the operating system drivers are made available for copying from the virtual disk drive by identifying only the operating system drivers operable with the operating system to be installed.

24. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a CPU;
a main memory array coupled to the CPU;
an expansion bus coupled to the CPU; and
a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the expansion bus, wherein the ROM stores basic input output system (BIOS) programs;

wherein the BIOS programs of the ROM ~~show~~ implement a virtual floppy drive whose contents reside in the ROM area of the virtual address space

the ROM contains operating system drivers ~~necessary~~ configured to interface an operating system that is being installed on the computer system with hardware of the computer system; and

wherein the BIOS programs ~~show~~ identify the operating system drivers on the ROM as the contents of the virtual floppy drive

the ROM contains a first set of operating system drivers for use with a first operating system;

the ROM also contains a second set of operating system drivers for use with a second operating system; and

wherein the BIOS programs ~~show~~ identify as contents of the virtual floppy drive only the first set of operating system drivers if the first operating system is to be installed on the computer system, and wherein the BIOS programs are further adapted to ~~show~~ identify as contents of the virtual floppy drive only the second set of operating system drivers if the second operating system is to be installed on the computer system.

25.-29. (Cancelled).

30. (New) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a main memory array coupled to the processor; and

a read only memory (ROM) coupled to the processor, wherein the ROM stores basic input output system (BIOS) programs and operating system drivers;

wherein the BIOS programs of the ROM implement a virtual disk drive storing at least some of the operating system drivers;

wherein during installation of an operating system on the computer at least one of the operating system drivers is copied from the virtual disk drive; and

wherein after installation of the operating system the operating system drivers on the ROM are overwritten with a redundant copy of the BIOS.

31. (New) The computer system as defined in claim 30 wherein the operating system drivers comprise a first set of operating system drivers for use a first operating system and a second set of operating system drivers for a second operating system, and wherein when the BIOS programs implement the virtual disk drive the BIOS programs configure the virtual floppy drive to appear to store only the first set of operating system drivers if the first operating system is being installed.